A Middle English Text Revised by a Renaissance Reader:  
John Wotton’s Annotations to  
British Library MS Sloane 249 (ff. 180v-205v)

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ABSTRACT
BL MS Sloane 249 ff. 180v-205v is a fifteenth-century gynaecological treatise in the tradition of Gilbertus Anglicus’ Compendium medicinae, classified by Green as Sickness of Women 2 (Green, 1992: 81-82). Unlike other Middle English gynaecological treatises, the text of this manuscript is thoroughly glossed by his Renaissance owner, one John Wotton, MD (Green, 2003: 383), who considered its language obsolete and unusual. His annotations, which include corrections, additions, eliminations, substitutions, etc. shed light on the changing vocabulary, morphology, grammatical constructions and even on stylistic preferences. The aim of this paper is to classify and comment on these annotations and to stress their importance for the historians of the English language.

KEYWORDS: marginalia, in-text annotations, glosses, Early Modern English, John Wotton, scientific discourse, Sloane 249

I. INTRODUCTION
Our knowledge on older stages of a language is based by force on written evidence. Major literary works, minor ones, documents, diaries, letters, handbooks, dictionaries, grammars and other written materials constitute the main sources of information for the historians of the...
English language. Many of these texts have generated a response in their later readers recorded under the form of annotations, glosses, deletions, marginal notes, etc.—the so-called metatext—which may also provide a valuable insight into the changing state of the language. However, they have not received considerable attention. Occasionally, they have even been omitted in academic editions (see Alonso-Almeida & Rodríguez-Álvarez, 1996) neglecting thus an excellent working ground for the philologists.

With this article, we intend to claim the importance of the metatext. Devised to clarify the reading of the text, the metatext reveals the reader, copyist or corrector's knowledge of a previous stage of the language and, so, it allows us to establish the progress of linguistic changes. Our main concern will be to make a classification of the different annotations to BL MS Sloane 249 (ff. 180v-205v), paying attention to their contents, form and place in the manuscript. Since the text is heavily annotated, we have made a selection of those notes that best illustrate the most frequent modifications. Therefore, punctual changes will not be included in our general classification, as they do not conform a pattern of recurrence which may help to understand the glossator's aim. The methodology we will follow has already been tested by scholars working on Propertian manuscripts (López-Cayetano & Rodríguez-Herrera, 2000; García de Paso-Carrasco & Rodríguez-Herrera, forthcoming; Rodríguez-Herrera & Curbelo-Tavío, forthcoming) and has proved effective and appropriate to our purposes.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANUSCRIPT

MS Sloane 249 ff. 180v-205v² (henceforward S249) is housed in the British Library, London. This English manuscript was copied following the tradition of Gilbertus Anglicus' thirteenth-century Compendium medicinae, and it has been listed by Green under the heading of “The Sekenese of Wyemmen” Version 2 (1992: 81-82). Originally, the Compendium medicinae was devised as a comprehensive work in seven distinct books with the aim of covering both “universal” and “particular” diseases. Here, the gynaecological content is included in the last book (Rubrice septimi libri), together with some venereal diseases, a discussion on venoms and other miscellaneous medical topics. The novelty of S249, and of several other fifteenth-century texts in Anglicus’ line, consists in compiling all the gynaecological information into a monographic treatise. In fact, S249 began its existence as an independent fascicle on obstetrics and gynaecology until an almost unknown Dr. John Wotton bound it to his own collection of remedies entitled Collectiones medicinales ordine alphabeticis instructae (Green, 1992: 62).

S249 is a relatively slim volume composed of fifty-one folios comprising a thirty-two lines prologue (f. 180v), an introduction to the female physiology and its natural tendency to moistness (ff. 180v-181v), and a total of twenty-three chapters dealing with women's diseases. As a rule, all chapters observe the essential two-fold pattern found in most gynaecological corpora of the Middle Ages. First, there is a short theoretical framework of the sickness, where a basic etiologic and symptomatic description is given. Secondly, each chapter counts with a
therapeutic or practical side (whose beginning is sometimes signalled by the Latin word Cura [f. 182v, l. 26; f. 188r, l. 33; f. 193r, l. 29]) that contains a number of suitable remedies (in form of recipes) to prevent, heal or, in extreme cases, alleviate the effects of the sickness just introduced. This therapeutically-based part is the longest in the chapter and denotes an instructive mood.

III. THE GLOSSATOR AND HIS PURPOSE

Even though the authorship of the glosses is not definite, several facts hint at John Wotton's hand. First of all, this gynaecological treatise was bound in the sixteenth century together with other writings on women's diseases by a John Wotton — also spelled Woot and Walton (Green, 1992: 62; Rowland, 1979). Although no biographical or professional information on John Wotton is available. Green (2003: 382) has related him to an Edward Wotton (1492-1555), an Oxford born doctor learned in Greek and very fond of correcting and annotating his own published works (Leclerc, 1855: 251). In addition, Edward Wotton's professional background and even his relationships with Conrad Gcsner, the editor of the Byzantine translation of Muscio’s Latin Genecia, suggest a possible connection with John Wotton, a doctor himself greatly concerned with obstetrics and gynaecology, as his compilation of remedies shows (see II. Description of the manuscript). Therefore, we think that John Wotton possibly corrected and annotated the manuscript in an attempt to update its fifteenth-century English.

Our initial assumption was that Wotton simply corrected old-fashioned words and spellings to make the text closer to a Renaissance reader. However, the clarity and consistency of his corrections and additions throughout the volume point to a different intentionality. He not only replaces obsolete words or spellings sparsely, but also changes most occurrences of function words or suffixes otherwise easily identifiable. As a result, he consistently changes initial thoms for th- in definite articles, or deletes final -(e)n of infinitives. Besides, he often makes it clear where additional passages must be inserted by using carets, and, if a new recipe is added at the bottom of the page, a cross signals the exact place of inclusion in the body of the text (f. 191r); vertical strokes bracing successive lines indicate deletion of complete paragraphs (f. 192r); and he even makes second decisions by putting already corrected excerpts between square brackets (f. 192r, ll. 7-13).

To sum up, the insertion and deletion of letters, words and texts are accurately indicated as if another reader were to use and had to understand Wotton's notes. He does not only make great efforts in correcting $249$, but also wants his annotations to be read in the right place and the deletion of certain passages to be unmistakably distinguished, as our survey of glossographical marks will show. Having this in mind, we do not consider it unreasonable to think that his ultimate purpose was to arrange the manuscript to be copied, or rather, printed, a hypothesis which may explain the volume, clarity and consistency of his glosses.

Apart from this intrusive reader, a second hand has also been identified in the manuscript.
who is responsible for the addition of a few Latin words that point to an author learned in classical sources—e.g. Gordonius (f. 191v, I. 19). Besides, this second glossator seems to be familiar with the proper Latin scientific names of plants—e.g. Archie [Arthemisia] (f. 184v, I. 12)—or body parts—they must take the marice of an hare & the Cunt [et ululam eius] (f. 205v, I. 17-18). Finally, he is also concerned with the identification of topics by Latin headings—Secreta mulieris (f. 184v and f. 185r, head margin) or Semenis generatio (f. 189r, right margin).

IV. A CLASSIFICATION OF THE GLOSSES IN S249

The gynaecological treatise included in S249 is heavily annotated. Our examination of the manuscript has rendered an average number oscillating between 60-62 annotations per folio. Folios 191r, 193r, 194v, 195r or 198v, for instance, surpass the limit of 85 glosses each, whereas, at the other end of the scale, folios 180v, 203r and 203v are the least glossed (all of them being under 20).  

The principal glossator of the manuscript, namely doctor John Wotton, improves the rendering of the original text by applying a personal glossographical technique. By glossographical technique we mean the way in which Wotton decided to gloss, remark and correct the manuscript's format, internal structure and contents, thus changing both the initial arrangement of the text and the medical information. His choice to gloss S249 neither results in a fixed scheme of frequency nor of presentation but varies in manner, size, location and function, as explained below.

IV.1. Manner

The glosses written in S249 pursue a triple objective: (a) to delete, (b) to replace and (c) to add new letters, words, phrases or even sentences. In order to fulfill such tasks, Wotton uses different methods:

(i) Underlining the letters, words, phrases or sentences to be modified. This type of incursion predominates over the rest. If the glossator offers an alternative for the underlined element, a caret (\(^\) ) is often inserted in the exact place where the new letter(s) or word(s) should be located.

(ii) Crossing out the element that has to be changed, either with a single or a double line. This happens less commonly in S249. Even though the first three lines of the text (f. 180v) count with five instances, the practice suddenly decreases to the point of sporadic appearance (as on f. 183v [II. 2], f. 188v [II. 13-14], or f. 198v [I. 6]).

(iii) Inserting marginal braces (\(\{\)) with the purpose of deleting whole sections of the manuscript. With the exception of the first two lines on f. 204v (linked in content with f. 204r), there are two left-margin braces for all the remaining lines. One indicates that a sphē (I. 3-6),

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two drynkes ([l. 7-14] and a plastre ([l. 15-18) intended to provoke the woman’s menstruation should be elided; the other brace refers to the suppression of a whole chapter ([inc. f. 204v] Dyvers tymes it happeth of diuers women a mischeuos; [expl. f. 205r] [...] but when tyme of voydaunce ben in pe ix days forseid). In this case, the meaning of the brace is reinforced by the systematic underlining of each line’s first word, thus hinting to the glossator’s insistence on the need to remove this passage.

(iv) Inserting square brackets to eliminate an excerpt. It is only used three times on three consecutive folios ([192r][l. 7-13], 192v [l. 17-22] and 193r [l. 33-38]). On each folio, there is a bracket in the margin—the right in the two rectos (]) and the left in the verso (])—that extends vertically all over the relevant lines. All three brackets are also accompanied by the word dottéd? that may also point to the need of expuncting "such content.

(v) Cancelling, that is, using a superimposed ‘X’ for deletion. This method is found just once in S249.17 The right margin of f. 191r records an extra recipe to elaborate a stew for the mother which is cancelled and then rewritten at the bottom margin as if it were a footnote.

(vi) Superimposing letters on others, with the purpose of correcting an old-fashioned spelling of the word (ley-they [f. 181v, l. 2], pin-thin [f. 182r, l. 25], pies-thies [f. 182v, l. 3], perof-therof [f. 188r, l. 27]). Sometimes, it is combined with underlining, as in yf-yff (f. 181r, l. 12) or come be orifice-come the orifice (f. 196v, l. 22).

IV.2. Size
The glossator’s intervention in S249 ranges from the substitution, deletion or addition of letters (kalament-calamint [f. 201r, l. 17])14 words (Also done yeven a woman [f. 199r, l. 38]) or short phrases (But notwithstanding theye have natural purgations of bleding [f. 181r, l. 1]) to the paraphrasing of medium-length passages (f. 199r, ll. 10-11; f. 201v, ll. 24-28). Although rarely, Wotton also eliminates longer sections of S249; there are examples on f. 186v (ll. 1-6), f. 200v (ll. 20-24) or f. 204v (ll. 3-36). Normally, the deleted passages do not present any gloss to their content.

IV.3. Location
The glosses in S249 are variously placed both inside and outside the main text. They are chiefly located inter lines, the rule being to note the letters or words above the underlined element using a smaller sixteenth-century handwriting (e.g. ff. 181r, 184r or 187v). To a lesser extent, the glossator also writes in the lateral margins, aligning his words with the line in question (f. 185r, f. 196v). Finally, Wotton’s glosses are seldom displayed in the head and bottom margins (f. 191r, f. 205v), often resulting from lack of interlinear space.
IV.4. Function

From a contemporary point of view, the writing of glosses and commentaries in S249 performs a double function: (i) it indicates how the glossator’s grammatical, semantic and organizing mind works, and (ii) it may provide the subsequent reader with plenty of information on the historical development of the English language, especially on its transition from the fifteenth to the sixteenth century. Due to the heavy annotation, the reader obtains abundant examples of the evolution of linguistic levels such as morphology, syntax and lexicon, as well as of Wotton’s stylistic changes to improve the scientific discourse in S249.

V. MORPHOLOGICAL CHANGES

Wotton’s modifications in the morphology of determiners, nouns, adjectives, pronouns and verbs show some sixteenth-century changes that can ultimately be reduced to the deletion of suffixes still used in late Middle English.

V.1. Determiners

Regarding determiners, Wotton eliminates the Middle English forms the too and the toper result of a subdivision of but one and but other—and uses the one and the other instead:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{on the one foot (201r, 35)} & \\
\text{the other on the other side (197r, 1)}
\end{align*}
\]

The Middle English thilke, apparently a fusion of the + ilke was abandoned progressively and was replaced with these during the sixteenth century (OED 1992; Rissanen, 1999: 195):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{[2] } \\
\text{thilke/ membres [these] [partes] (201v, 10-11)}
\end{align*}
\]

V.2. Nouns

(i) Plurals in -(e)n are substituted by -s plurals in the text. This fact calls our attention, for both plural forms were frequent in the sixteenth century, e.g., ashes/ashen (Lass, 1999: 141). The plural form eyen is usual by mid-seventeenth century (Wallis, 1653: 77, quoted by Lass, 1999: 141) and it can still be traced in the eighteenth-century (Greenwood, 1711: 49, quoted by Lass, 1999: 141):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{[3] } \\
\text{the eyen (181v, 18)} & \\
\text{as it were axen (ashes) (182r, 26)} & \\
\text{her grete loon (189r, 18)} & \\
\text{the yolkes of eyren (eggs) (193r, 4)}
\end{align*}
\]

(ii) Although in Middle English biological gender had already superseded the grammatical one (Lass, 1992: 106), the fifteenth-century scribe still used some pronouns that retained the old...
grammatical gender of their referents. Wotton makes them agree with the natural sex of their referents in the real world changing thus their gender:

\[
\text{[4]}
\]

lheure vyn is discolor & thin & harte hii \[\text{\textit{hym}}\] small gruelle \((182v, 25)\)
inaketh the liert to closyn hym \[\text{\textit{it}}\] seelte \[\text{\textit{it}}\] to gedre more than he \[\text{\textit{it}}\] shuld do by kynde
\((187v, 37-38)\)
\(\text{it} \text{shuld make tykelyng in the marice} / & \text{for} \text{she} \[\text{\textit{it}}\] \text{\textit{wyll}}\) come adownewards \((189v, 6-7)\)

V.3. Pronouns

(i) With respect to the pronominal system, th- forms are used in the manuscript for the nominative and genitive cases of the third person plural, whereas the h- form is still present in some oblique cases. Wotton extends the th- forms for all cases since "by the beginning of the sixteenth century the modern paradigm is fully established" (Lass, 1999: 120):

\[
\text{[5]}
\]

nought according to hem \[\text{\textit{not fit for them}}\] \((181v, 24)\)
\& maketh hem \[\text{\textit{it}}\] causesthem \[(181v, 31)\]
to bote hem \[\text{\textit{it}}\] powde them \[\text{\textit{in a mortere}}\] \((184v, 6)\)

(ii) Although self/had been added after the pronouns since Old English times, simple personal pronouns with reflexive meaning, as the ones in S249, are still in use up to the end of the fifteenth century (Mustanoja, 1960: 153). The glossator adds self or selves, depending on the number of the pronoun. Themselves, with final –s, which emerges at the end of the fifteenth century (OED 1992; Mustanoja, 1969: 147), is one of the forms added by Wotton:

\[
\text{[6]}
\]

they deliuer threm \[\text{\textit{of selves}}\] of iilatere \((182v, 24-25)\)
\& kept hyr \[\text{\textit{selffe}}\] from all drinke \((193v, 20-21)\)

(iii) Occasionally, possessive pronouns are preceded by the preposition of in Middle English (Mustanoja, 1960: 158). The glossator deletes it and uses the synthetic form instead:

\[
\text{[7]}
\]

the \[\text{\textit{her}}\] wonbe of \[\text{\textit{her}}\] \((200v, 17)\)

V.4. Adjectives and adverbs

The relic suffix -lic from OE –lic is eliminated by the annotator in adjectives and adverbs, a change that according to Nevalainen took place in late Middle English (1999: 405):

\[
\text{[8]}
\]

Aid that conieth swyftlic forth othe \((185r, 11-12)\)
bringeth it forth the dede childe mervelouslic \((190r, 18)\)
when the lilodir fallyth from hr kyndeliche place \((190r, 29-30)\)
ydressd hym rightlic \((196v, 30)\)
V.5. Verbs

(i) Wotton consistently deletes from the text the infinitive suffix -en which, according to Lass (1999: 98), had almost disappeared well into the fifteenth century.

\[\text{also ben shamefull to shewen and to tellen (180v, 9)}\]
\[\text{it is profitable to see such suppositories (183v, 3-4)}\]

(ii) In the same vein, our Renaissance annotator removes 3rd person plural final -en and -th:

\[\text{there ben many women that ha\text{ve} (180v, 7)}\]
\[\text{they that ben of high complexion & be\text{n} thori\text{s}ed with liote metes (181r, 4-5)}\]
\[\text{women that ben of a high complexion & fare\text{n} well & ly\text{v}in moche case h\text{a}ve this purgacion o\text{f}fer than oons in a moneth (181r, 14-16)}\]

(iii) Likewise, initial y- (formerly the Old English prefix ge-) to form past participles, which had survived throughout the Middle English period as a southern form but had almost ceased to be used by the late fifteenth century (Lass, 1999: 147), is also deleted:

\[\text{And women that ben y stopped contynuelly (182r, 29-30)}\]
\[\text{to be y batled in suche herbes (183r, 16)}\]
\[\text{medycyns & plastres there y\text{w}ritten (184v, 23-24)}\]

(iv) The expressions of command addressed to the second person singular in S249 render the author’s instructions to the reader/healer. In the fifteenth-century text, the formulation of these orders fluctuates from the combination of the periphrasis let + plain infinitive (in [12]) or do + plain infinitive (in [13]) — constructions for the first person plural (Mossé, 1952: 108; Mustanoja, 1960: 475) — to the plain infinitive alone. The annotator levels out this variation and reduces them all to the bare infinitive:

\[\text{let make a stowe of herbes (183r, 1)}\]
\[\text{oper\text{w}hile\text{s le\text{t}es make here right s\text{o}ry (183r, 6-7)}\}
\[\text{let bath herre (183r, 9)}\]
\[\text{But seth all these things in water till that water be blak & thyk &\text{g}e\text{t} wrap the man oper be woman in a shete (186v, 29-30)}\]
\[\text{Aid from the\text{n}e\text{v}ell downwar\text{de}s to herre priu mem\text{e}bre let ano\text{y}tn\text{e}n lier (188v, 26-27)}\]

\[\text{than do\text{d}ric her with a clothe (183v, 28-79)}\]

The following passage records the different formulations of cornniand: let seth, do stuphe and lay in coordinate constructions as a clear instance of their identical function:

\[\text{let seth them yn water & do stuphe her in that set\text{h}ing of tho herbes Also\text{l}ong as she may}\]
\[\text{And when she go\text{t}he of the stuphe lay the herbes to the moder A good suppositoric (193r,}\]

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(v) According to Lass (1999: 176) *hen* as the third person plural of the verb *to be* survives as an archaic form to the 1530s, and although *are* begins to be used by sixteenth-century writers, the form *he* emerges as the first choice. The fifteenth-century text and Wotton’s sixteenth-century corrections match this scene: the annotator erases final –*n* of the form *ben*, which prevails in the original treatise against a few occurrences of *he*, but does not introduce the form *are*.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{[15]} & \\
& \text{they also ben shameful (180v, 9)} \\
& \text{they that ben of high complexion & beth norrisshed with hote metes (181r, 4-5)} \\
& \text{wont ein that ben with childe (18 Ir, 7)} \\
& \text{yef such humours ben resolved in to wynde (182v, 8)}
\end{align*}
\]

VI. SYNTACTIC CHANGES

The glossator is aware of the syntactic changes that English has undergone since mid-fifteenth century and consequently modifies the text updating those constructions that we specify in more detail below.

VI. 1. Word order

(i) In Middle and Early Modern English SV order is the most usual; however, we may encounter cases of inversion. In the next example from S249, inversion is triggered by the fronting of the object (Mossé, 1952: 127), which is also supported by the presence of a heavy subject (Rissanen, 1999: 266):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{[16]} & \\
& \text{this inedycyne taught the Prior of Bermodese ye to\*\* taught A woman (185v, 8-9)}
\end{align*}
\]

In this case, the glossator does not only place the verb after the subject but also deletes the preposition *to* before the indirect object. The reason is evident: once the possible confusion as regards the syntactic functions of the *prior of Bermondeseyr* and *A woman* is removed by the new word order, the preposition *to* before the indirect object is not considered necessary. This is then another instance of the careful and thorough correction undertaken by Wotton.

(ii) As Rissanen remarks, in the course of the Early Modern English period "there seems to be a trend from [adjectival] postmodification to premodification" (1999: 209). That could explain why Wotton alters the few cases of noun+adjective order present in S249, even though it was "especially common in scientific and legal texts [...] and persists into the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries" (Lass 1999: 116):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{[17]} & \\
& \text{take \*\* fine bolle fynet (187r, 21)} \\
& \text{take \*\* Sommer tyle continued (188v, 22)}
\end{align*}
\]
This trend to premodification has also affected the common Middle English construction \textit{adj+noun+and/or+adj} (Mossé, 1952: 123; Fischer, 1992: 214; Rissanen, 1999: 208-209) which is gradually superseded by \textit{adj+adj+noun} in Early Modern English. Following this drift, whenever two modifiers are involved, Wotton places a post-positive modifier before its head and next to other prenidiﬁers:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{[18]}
  \begin{quote}
  it is profitable to use such stippositories a fowre \underline{days} other a \underline{fyve} \footnote{(or five dayes)}
  before that tyme (183v, 3-4)
  four \underline{verber} or \underline{fyve} \underline{yeares} (200v, 7)
  \end{quote}
\end{itemize}

VI.2. Expression of subject and object

(i) A pleonastic use of personal pronouns is not rare in Middle English, mainly in order to avoid ambiguity where the subject is detached from its verb (Mustanoja, 1960: 137-138), as in [19], Wotton avoids these cases of double subjects deleting the personal pronouns:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{[19]}
  \begin{quote}
  for women after they be with childe for to they be dclyuered \underline{they} ie have rought this purgacioii (181r, 9-10)
  \end{quote}
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{[20]}
  \begin{quote}
  ileyddewyf \underline{she shall} ordieyie (197r, 16)
  \end{quote}
\end{itemize}

(ii) Regarding direct objects, they are not often expressed in S249, as they can be easily inferred from the context. Nevertheless, Wotton took the trouble to insert object personal pronouns wherever needed:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{[21]}
  \begin{quote}
  And \underline{yif pow} take stufc mawe of a sokyng \underline{hare} or of a sokyng Calfc \& dost \underline{bye} neit it to poudre \& \underline{medliest} \footnote{\underline{it} with poudre} (186r, 28-31)
  take lynsedc \underline{all hole \& sche} it in shepes mylke \underline{eiper} gotes mylke \& let \footnote{\underline{her} ete it} (186r, 34-35)
  \end{quote}
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{[22]}
  \begin{quote}
  let \underline{e} wrap the man \underline{eiper} he woman in a shete \& sit \footnote{\underline{them} \yn hat bathe} \& let \footnote{\underline{them} vser rosted inetis} (186v, 30-31)
  withholden there wombe \& \underline{clippen} \footnote{\underline{it} hard to gedre with her lioides} (188r, 11-12)
  But before \& aftir thou nuyght yeven \footnote{\underline{her} \nedecys} (189r, 9-10)
  \end{quote}
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{[23]}
  \begin{quote}
  And first \underline{anoynte} \underline{them} with hotc oyle of roscs (201r, 25-26)
  \end{quote}
\end{itemize}
VI.3. Articles and possessive adjectives

(i) The definite article was not felt necessary in Middle English if the noun was already specified by any other means, e.g. an of-phrase (Fischer, 1992: 219; Mustanoja, 1960: 268). Mustanoja adds that in many of the cases where the definite article is left out, the noun is preceded by a preposition, as in [22] (Mustanoja, 1960: 269). The examples below illustrate these articleless uses modified by Wotton, who introduces definite articles following the Early Modern English practice:

[22]
AId they have such purgacion from [the] tyme of twelve wynter (181r, 2-3)
in [the] tylie of thir a3es yif her triacle (189r, 1-2)

[23]
hat plastre shall be [the] qualitie of a pawiile of the hailde (192r, 14-15)

(ii) Likewise, the annotator inserts indefinite articles, which were quite infrequent in Middle English (Fischer 1992: 230). By the sixteenth century, the absence of a was considered an archaism (Traugott 1972: 134):

[24]
let the woman stande there ouere & lente [he] siiioke come in to here prive membrc or in to
[the] mannes fundamont (186v, 19-21)

(iii) Possessive adjectives for bodily functions and body parts are used consistently in the Middle English treatise; Wotton just corrects the instances without a determiner or, alternatively, with a definite article:

[25]
If they lavo [their] purgacion in this tyme (181r, 12)
so that the pipe entre in to that [the] other prive membre (191v, 29-30)
mendynghis hede on the bost nianenc & the [his] feet rightylych (197v, 9)

VI.4. Coordinate constructions

In coordinate constructions where the coreferential element (verb, preposition, article, adjective, etc.) is repeated, the annotator eliminates the second occurrence:

[26]
itorished witti liotc ilites & with liote diyiikes (181r, 5)
[for as mosch as ther maiy woollen that haue iiiani divers maladies] & have humours
(18)l inferior margin = 181v, 1)
both iiii A man & in A woman (189r, 28)
as it wre a child quyk & meveth but noght so swyftly / But it mevethedely (199v, 29-30)
VI.5. Number agreement

According to Fischer, Middle English is characterised by looseness of concord or agreement (Fischer, 1992: 364; Mossé, 1952: 110); agreement awareness, she adds, had its origins "in rules laid down by grammarians and schoolmasters in the Renaissance and after" under the influence of Latin. Wotton endorses this concern making corrections where appropriate:

[27]

Many of the sekenesse[s] (181r, 21-22)
ffor to help women ofthese sekenesse[s] (182v, 26-27)

VI.6. Impersonal constructions

Impersonal constructions without an expressed subject were frequent in Old English, their number even increased in Middle English, but, conversely, during Early Modern English the tendency was to express the subject. Thus, impersonal constructions of the type me repenteth became gradually personal ones in Early Modern English, resulting in either it repenteth me or I repent through a process of reanalysis (Rissanen, 1999: 250). The only example of such an impersonal construction in S249 was modified by the glossator, who also replaced the verb:

[28]

Also yif hir benke that it brynneth [she perceive it hot and burninge] (187r, 34-35)

VI.7. Relative constructions

(i) The combination the which was extensively used during the late Middle English period, probably under the influence of French, although native origins have also been pointed to (Mustanoja, 1960: 198). In [29], Wotton eliminates the article before which, but this is not the norm because he maintains the elsewhere in the manuscript (e.g. Jois of arthiem with the which medle all the oper poudres [196r, 10-11] or Thurgh resoln of the which thing [199v, 14-15]):

[29]

Other medycznes there Beth the which yif / woman drynke hem they will niaken here to have a purgacion (184r, 2-3)
a bathe of herbes in to the which the women (199v, 33-34)

(ii) Which is preferred to that for no evident reasons as in:

[30]

fenugrek that [whiche] is moche better (185r, 36)
the inoder that it ne is [which is not] naught me may to defie (193r, 27-28)

In [31], though, the proximity of a previous relative clause introduced by that may have moved
Wotton to replace it by which in order to avoid repetition. Once again, he reveals his meticulous character as an editor.

[31]
gret syencsse that the woman hadde & had with y febled hir moche (198r, 35-37)

(iii) When a preposition precedes the relativiser and the antecedent is a person, whom is favoured:

[32]
ther be also other women in the which whom often tymes there marie will come doun (205r, 12-13)
yif it be so a woman desire to conceyve of a man that by whom she wolde conceyve (205r, 36-37)

(iv) Finally, Wotton’s decision to delete short relative clauses enlivens the rhythm of the text which beconies more fluent:

[33]
comfort of the child bat is withyn hir (195r, 37)
A precious stone bat called jasapis (99r, 36-37)
to help women bat they were deliuered of child (99r, 37-38)

VI.8. Negative constructions
The few negative correlative constructions ne ... nought in the fifteenth-century text are substituted by postverbal not, which has become the common negator by late Middle English (Fischcr, 1992: 280; Rissanen, 1999: 271). In S249, Wotton preserves the particle not (written originally as nought), which is the prevailing form used in isolation in postverbal position [34]; however, he does modify the correlative construction [35]:

[34]
And yif the child conieth nought not outewards (198v, 12)

[35]
for womcn aftir they ben with childe for to they be delyuered they have nought not this purgacioi (18Ir, 9-10)
that it is no which is nought mighty to defie the fleumatyk huniours that beth (193r, 27-28)

VI.9. Modal auxiliaries
(i) By the use of modal auxiliaries we convey emotional and cognitive processes, since they alter the meaning of a statement by implying certain attitudes, convictions, feelings, deductions, etc. In his choice of auxiliaries, the glossator shows again his discriminating use of the language; nevertheless, he cannot escape from the changing state of the language and, as a result, is not consistent. May, for instance, is replaced by can in [36], but is maintained elsewhere in the text.
probably because the meaning "have the physical power to" was just shifting from may to can at the moment (Traugott, 1972: 118). Wotton just shows a change in progress by using both modal verbs with the same meaning:

[36]
for to help women of these seknessc there ben manydiucrs medycynes as blode leettynge in oter places to deliuer hein of blode that they may | could | nought | not | ben ypurged of (182v, 26-29)

feblenesse of the woman that maynought | cannot | withholden the blode withynhere (185r, 7-8)

In the next example cannot introduces overtones of a higher degree of impossibility than may:

[37]
The dropsy of the modir cometh oterwhils of witfioldyng of blode that a womaii shuld be purged of & than she may | cannot | nought be yheled But slie be purged of that blode (192c. 6-9)

(ii) If the doctor/annotator relies on the efficacy of a treatment, the sense of prediction is better expressed by shall or will than by may; that is why already in Middle English shall is frequently used in prophecies (Fischer 1992: 264):

[38]
lette hir vsei to be y bathed in suche herbes as j spake of rather Sr she may | shall | be holpen (183r, 16-17)

Also yifthe mydrywfy wette her handes in oyle of pulioi [...] Sr þan ainoyn the orifice / of here prixe membre it shuld | will | iiake tyckelyng in the marice (189v. 4-7)

(iii) Finally must is used instead of mowen to emphasise the necessity to do something, or, rather, the prohibition to do something:

[39]
they mowen | must | rescyeven none stron medycyns to purgen hem (188v, 6)

VII. LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC CHANGES

There is a high percentage of lexical modification in S249. The deletion, substitution and addition of new meanings to the text is, again, part of Wotton’s attempt to update and make it as comprehensible as possible to a sixteenth-century audience. Whenever the glossator underlines a word or phrase for the semantic improvement of the manuscript, he is also showing us his disagreement or non-familiarity with that element. Moreover, Wotton is fully conscious of the internal workings of the text as well as of the grammatical rules to collocate words into meaningful sentences. In this way, he even adapts the semantic context surrounding the new term to obtain a coherent lexical set.

The semantic glosses in S249 do not only affect words but also complex structures which are rewritten using alternative combinations of English lexis. The next pages of this article are
Devoted to outlining the changes in the primary signification of our manuscript. This analysis
discloses a twofold characteristic scheme: (i) modifications by which the underlying (or
intrinsic) meaning remains unaltered, and (ii) modifications by which the underlying meaning
varies.

**VII.1. The underlying meaning remains essentially the same**

Wotton’s intervention in the lexicon of S249 produces no change in the denotational meaning
(Lass, 1992: 464-465) whenever he resorts to synonymy or to the substitution of an obsolete term
for another.

**VII.1.4. Synonymy**

If synonyms are words or expressions that “are identical or similar in meaning and that can be
used interchangeably in at least one context” (Greenbaum, 1996: 420), a considerable number
of the lexical substitutions found in S249 can be said to have a synonyniac nature. However, the
lexical substitutes of the underlined words are not always strictly speaking synonyms; they rather
tend to be near-synonyms. The presence of two words doing the same work in a language is
considered to be “un economical”; for this reason, differences in style, collocation, meaning and
grammatical potential emerge among them (Greenbaum. 1996: 409).

In S249, the glossator frequently uses synonyms to reformulate the scribe’s lexical
idiosyncrasy, mainly by means of replacement and addition of terms and expressions.

**VII.1.4.a. Absolute synonymy**

In absolute synonymy, one word is often replaced by an equivalent of the same grammatical
category; here, the meaning in context does not vary and there is no nioving or insertion of new
elements [40]. If necessary. Wotton also changes the orthographic shape of the contiguous words
[41] or makes them concord [42].

[40]

Aid y/if tiles withholding: withholding, stopping: be of colde (182r, 17-18)
& tiles medycyn bothe bringeth forth hope ofe childe & quyk wiere etier it be in the
womans wombe & that speedely; sorte (184v, 23-25)
Also ther with gotes mylkehat is full profitables for this sekenesse for becausc it niaeketh
be blode thyk... (186r. 10-11)
Aid tiles akkes: firce: ciidurceth oher whiles two daies or þre (188r. 2-3)

[41]

Witholding of this blode that they mouw nought have here purgacions in due tymes
comyny in ^ divers waies: divers waies (185v, 7-8)
Take mynumcolinharumilliastic tile harthorn: y brent till it be white & of everech othres
viche inoche: ^ of alike quantite (1 (18r. 23-25)
And ober whiles ther wexeth wannesse in thir visage & in thire faces (181v, 26-27)

Regarding phrases and short sentences, absolute synonymy refers to the paraphrasing of the same idea, this time using a construction with modified spelling, word order and lexis:

but yf a man ober a woman be ilore weakned & veriinuche weakened & hirby for thai men shall sesen it as some As men may & it should be stopped with speedc (185v, 31-37)
& hir sides swollen & the haven pregancy to brethen & to feel a difficultic of breath when lewe wode Also But & drawene there winde & (194v, 5-6)
First yf the be expelcted other menstruus & thire notethie sickies be stopped & do clense hir with niedcylys in retencione menstruum (20 Ir, 15-16)

In the examples included so far, Wotton repeatedly replaces a word or expression with an absolute synonym. Less frequently, our glossator redefines the lexicon in S249 by adding synonyms. With this practice, he expresses the same concept through another lexical item:

And profitable bledyngs ben atte the veynes of the gretc & to be yarscd & ro skarrefied on the of the legges byneth the sperlyuere (182v, 30-32)
& lette her sitten ouer the vapor or smoke thereof hat it may conic to here priue ineinbre (20 v, 7-8)
But nethelesse this oynement is good therfore & for 3uthing also & blaynes or pimples & that ben in the inoder. (202r, 15-17)
then take coton right wellly tossed or carded & put that coton cscly in to a lyiinen poket (202r, 30-31)

VII.1.1.b Near-synonymy

This term refers to the substitution of a word for another exchangeable in a limited number of contexts. Although both options have identical referential meaning, the glossator's choice is affected by two major parameters:

(i) Register

When Wotton introduces a more formal alternative in the nianuscript, he is being conscious of the specific linguistic needs of scientific discourse. A distinction between everyday and technical jargon should be made, even though the dynamics of the language prevents a clear-cut "dividing line between technical terms [and expressions] and terms in general use" (Greenbaum, 1996: 416-417). With his choice of vocabulary, Wotton upgrades the degree of formality in the text and characterises it with a new scientific touch where precision and clarity are fundamental.

And long withlioldyng of this blade maketh women other whiles to fallen in to A dropscy
and *otherwise* & *liketh hem* a[^cause the hem] to have be Emersawdes (181r. 30-32)  
Also the vnuist as bastes y madc of water that alym de plume is soden yn for it experte  
[is proved] & Auicci techeth it in the 2^e Chapitre (187v, 11-13)  
it have suffer the grettest sekioasses of the body the whiles they leven than to ben y  
heled (188v. 1)  
Also doth xv. grayics of pyonys soden in wyne & ydronke fordo be suffocacion of the  
mord & helpesth that *sorrow* [disease]. (192v, 27-28)

(ii) Collocation

The coocurrence or juxtaposition of words into prefabricated lexical units is known as  
collocation (Greenbaum, 1996: 427). In a number of occasions, the glossator substitutes a word  
for another with the intention of making the collocations more appropriate to the context. Two  
grammatical categories stand out:

ii.a. Prepositions

[46]  
The first is stoppyng of the blode that they shuld have in by purgacion and be purged as  
I haue saide (180r, 24-25)  
Also staphes ben profitable for them ymade of herbes that will & mowe open the  
veynes of tile iiloddor (182v, 34-35)  
let hir bleden a little in the Arnie & sethe her drynke a little Rubarbe [i]. (185v,  
15-16)  
Aiid *among* of all things that nieii vse Rys & whathe thikketh noicho a mannes blode  
(186r. 19-20)  
And she niadc a plastre of diptayne of Jsope & of saueray & leyde it aboute her priue  
shape with ouetei (193r, 34-35)

ii.b. Adjectives

[47]  
& that is [conveniente] profitable list leaste they fall in to a Cardiacle other in to  
A dropsey (182v, 29-30)  
Also a *worshipfull* goold scrup that myghtlich bringeth forth the corupt blode fro the  
moder (184r, 15-16)  
Also in tile dropse / of the inodir the chekes beii nessele & sowthe and [eblich] of a  
warnd yeouled ... (193r, 19-20)  
they hauc contynuallych a contynuall feuere but nough to *stronge* sharpe (194v, 10-  
11)
VII.1.2. Obsolescence

Not infrequently, the glossator erases obsolete or old-fashioned words. Indeed, the majority of glossaries and "old-word" dictionaries of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries indicate the extent to which Old and Middle English texts had become incomprehensible" (Nevulainen, 1999: 347). Although obsolescence is a relative concept, often depending on the reader’s standards and linguistic background, Wotton’s practice in S249 may provide us with a set of lexical items—mainly, nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives and conjunctions that either had already lost currency by his age or were beginning to fall into disuse:

[48]

Withhodeylyg of this blode tliat they inowe nought have licro purgacioiis in due tymes coiyny in diuers inanes. And of diuers coeheus [occasions] (181v. 7-9)

Anoþer suppository: take the rote of smallache to [mountaine]ly quantetice [thyrre fyngre all grene] (183v. 14-15)

& seth it oftone [againe] a litell & let it kale (185v. 6-7)

& let e hir vsen to drynk water of rosyes or of plantor ober eys or [reyne] water or eys water that mastykys soddiyl y lober [or] wyill y iledid with water (186v. 33-35)

Also take a [quyk]urtitty & [brenne] lier all quyk [burne him alivce] with the feperes (187r. 1-2)

Also rym [te] liede that al liialier stiliikyng thiengs in this cause shall be put benepe for (192r. 21-22)

& perpo foulc grete huinours makeil grete sswellyng as it were another liialier of ydropes that is clleped [called] aschitos (199v. 24-26)

VII.2. The underlying meaning is modified

Sometimes, Wotton’s massive annotation of S249 is directed to change the textual meaning by including more specific information on a topic. Such a modification of the underlying meaning in the manuscript is carried out through the following methods.

VII.2.1. Introduction of new words

With the insertion of new words and expressions in context, the essential meaning of sentences is affected. As a result, there arises a deviation from the original sense which can range from a minimal shade of meaning to a totally different idea, as represented in the passages below:

[49]

For as moclie as tliere ben many women that havcn many diuers liialadyes and sekonccses ryeb[can] to the deth (180v. 1-2)
The adverbial substitution *nygh-etyn* implies a qualitative change in meaning; *even to the deth* has much more drastic connotations than *nyghto the deth*. The first expression emphasises the malignity of certain exclusively female diseases, as surprising as it may seem; *nyghto the deth* is somewhat milder, carrying the sense of “closely related”.

[50] other of moche wakyng other of iiioche *thenkyng*’ saadnes [other of grete Angre
other of moche sorowe other of iiioche fastynge](181v, 12-14)

*Thenkyng*, as a synonym of meditation, does not necessarily involve the feeling of sadness. Although it may be responsible for such a state of unhappiness. By replacing the general term *thenkyng* for the specific sadness, Wotton is reformulating one of the possible causes for the *withholdyng of this blode* (181v, 7)

[51] & bringen forth children that ben *meselles* [lepers] or have some other such fowle sekenesse (181v, 2b-30)

Here, the infectious disease known as *meselles* (variant form of ME *measles*, in Latin *rubeola*) is substituted by *lepers*. Notwithstanding their similarity (both are characterised by the presence of pustules in the skin), an expert on gynaecology and obstetrics may have preferred to distinguish *meselles*, a term formerly “applied to the pustules of the eruptive diseases in general” (*OED*, 1902), from *lepers*, a more precise word.

A variant version consists in combining the replacement of a word or phrase with the addition of (a) new one(s) to present a finely-tuned scientific discourse:

[52] The nyieetli istic [fallynge downe and] goynge oute of the iioder [benethen forth] (181v, 3)
And otherwhiles in this tym they have wyllof [desireand have] coiliipany with men (181v, 27-28).
Aid yif it be in the fiftt iliiaiere thow myght knowe it by the *feblenesse* [weaknes &
faityness] of the womans body (185r, 21-23)
Aid letre liere blode atte the yayic of Iir Arinc Aid to be cupped vndire Iir tetes Aid
aboucten the reynes and the lendes & to be garsed on her legges to withdrawen the blode
aweyewards from be [withdraw&diverte the blood from ye another](185r, 35-39)

**W1.2.2. Introduction of time-referencess**

Wotton also attempts to be more concrete in the overall arrangement of the gynaecological content. The introduction or change of time-references turns to be an organising technique that helps the reader to understand better the internal relationships among the elements in a recipe. Therefore, the interpretation of the theoretically-based content and the application of therapeutics to female patients are stepped as accurately and orderly as Wotton believes pertinent. For this purpose, he made use of time and spatial connectors and expressions:

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Therefore first of all ye shall understand that women have less heat than men have. (180v, 33-34)

And about that time of the mone that they should have there purgacion yif they have none let them bledyn a good quantite of blode atte hir grete toe. And a nobere the next day ther oper grete too (183r, 12-15)

let but stande till hit be colde & clense thereof it as noiole as she may dronym atte oons by the morowe (184v, 19-20)

Whan then it shall do it to deluyere a woman from hir childe (184v, 32-33)

& do then wrap all her body aboute with an liote double shete. Then and afterward make her a fumigacion (200r, 3-5)

First immediately after but she is anoynted & ban wrappcd in a shete & the balles forseid (200v, 9-10)

VZZ.2.3. Introduction d extra information

The modification of the meaning underlying the text is also accomplished by inserting new medical or remedial data. Once more, concreteness and effectiveness in the transmission of the scientific discourse are guiding the glossator. He is specially concerned about anatomical precision, as seen in:

[54]

The fiffe is whan the moder is flawed fro [flared] within and without. Withynfroth (181r, 31)

And is cleepe Colre than they felen breining & prikkyn of heate with yn forth & outward & here vylin' is of an high colour and fatty & yn tyuie of iar purgacioii three days or tijj that they be delyvered (182r, 12-16)

let them bledyn a good quantite of blode atta the paijie in hir grete toe (183r, 14-15)

The precipitacion of the moder is a nobere sekenesse when the moder falleth from hir kyndeliche & natural place (190r, 28-30)

Aid also y haue seid inola wexeti in the inarice as it were a child that is quyk & irieveth [by the matrice] but noght so swyfily (199v, 27-29)

Furthermore, Wotton is also retrieving his medical expertise and general knowledge on the topic to fill in the evident contentual lacunae probably due to scribal errors. The information is introduced here without making any changes to the sentential syntax and hence prescruis the overall coherence of the text:

[55]

But neuerthelesse [there they haue iaterral purgations] of bledying to make therc bodyes clenc & hole froin syketeiie (181r, 1-2)
& beron strawe the poudre of mastik & of \[Franke\] encense & of harnes hones (190v, 32-33)

Woinien when they ben with child ^[have often tymes] therve legges wollen swollen [and for this disease] (202v, 5-7)

VIII. SCRIBAL ERRORS

As just mentioned in the previous section, Wotton introduces or deletes some words that the original scribe seemingly forgot or repeated:

[56]

The nioder is a skyn that the childe / is enclosed in (181r, 20-21)

Makeii ober ^[meii ober] whilcs to thirst hir wombe to gedre (188r, 12-13)

let her ^[be] dieted (191r, 32)

IX. TOWARDS A MORE SCIENTIFIC STYLE

We have already seen how some words with general meaning (nouns and verbs mainly) have been replaced by more specific words or even medical terms (see examples in [45] above). Wotton also added notes that explain physiological processes more accurately [S7], and time adverbs and linkers were inserted to indicate the different steps of a treatment with more precision [53]. However, these are not the only modifications that suggest an intention to reshape the text into a more scientific pattern. Wotton wanted to avoid any confusion that could arise in the reading of the original text and made use of strategies such as repetitions [57], deictics [58] or endopiroric references [59] to contribute to a clearer understanding of the treatise:

[57] many of the sekenesse that womeii havyn comen of greuances of this moder that we clepyii the marys / The first ^[greefe] is stoppyng of the blode (181r, 21-24)

[58] CURA ffor to help women of these sekenesse there ben many diuers medycenes as blode lettyng etc. And [these] profitable bledyngs (182v, 26-30)

yif thou yche her drynk of hir clarette made with ^[this] syrups (184r, 32-33)

[59] lette the woman sitt beryii afterwards a good while & sethen lette hir wash her prevy incuiubre as depe as she may reche jnwards & thus do a good while with ^[the sayd] water (183v, 26-28)
References to other parts of the text, though, were already present in the original copy, but their formulation nearly always involved the presence of the author in the form of the first person. Wotton removed this personal implication, and new expressions in the passive voice, a distinctive characteristic of scientific texts, were introduced (Taaitsainen, 1994):

{[60 1994: 331]} in the bethes ymade of siche herbes as y spake of right newe + ar before mentioned (183r, 10)
in suche herbes as j ar spake of rather before (183r, 16-17)
bathen hir wyth such herbes as y seid rather ar before spoken of (183r, 30-31)
put it yp ayeti as [is sayed] we have before (197v, 4)

X. CONCLUSION

The numerous sixteenth-century annotations to the fifteenth-century text of S249 have proved an outstanding corpus to trace some of the most relevant changes in progress during the transitional stage from late Middle English to Early Modern English. The glosses seem to be the work of a John Wotton, a former owner of the manuscript, who took the pains to delete, replace and add letters, suffixes, words, constructions and even complete passages to update the language of this gynaecological treatise. His selectivc and punctilious character has thus provided us with an excellent real testimony of those language issues that may have posed difficulties to a sixteenth-century reader. Likewise, the text has turned out to be a good sample of the development of scientific style. Many of the changes Wotton has made reveal an awareness of some of the features that characterise the scientific/medical discourse: an adequate terminology, use of deictic and repetitions to make references clear, absence of the first person personal pronouns, use of the passive as a formula of detachment and an accurate time sequence of treatments.

For all this, we consider it necessary to devote some time to the transcription and study of the glosses and modifications added or made to any historical written piece since they may constitute as good a source for the history of the English language as the text itself. In the case of S249, our view is that conventional editorial methods, such as the inclusion of glosses within the body of the text or in ancillary notes, are unsuitable for a clear rendering of the original text and its metatext. The number, length and elaboration of the glosses reach such an extent that they almost constitute a rewriting of the fifteenth-century manuscript, somehow resulting in a new 'text'. A face-to-face arrangement of both text and metatext would eliminate an otherwise entangled layout of the edition and would facilitate their reading and comparison. Besides, it would allow an overall perusal of S249 and its sixteenth-century glosses, which eventually would help modern readers to tackle with some of the ongoing changes in Garly Modern English, and, particularly, with the evolution of medical discourse.
NOTES

1. For a recent study of glosses in another gyiecological manuscipt, see Dominguez-Rodriguez, forthcoming.

2. Refer to eVK 1956.00 (Voigt & Kurtz, 2000)

3. S249 is predominaity written in English, except for the folios 202v-204r where three Latin chapters are included, namely: (inc.) *Ad menstrua promovendo* (ff. 202v-203r), (inc.) *Ad restringendam coytum* (ff. 203r-203v) and (inc.) *De tumore mamill* (ff. 203v-204r).

4. In Iacobii Saccoi* tis 15* [Editions of the] *Compendium medicinae* by Gilbert Anglicisc morborum universalium, *particularissimum* [et] cyriacs stellissimum, the Tabulariarum librorum compendii Gilbert Anglicisc is preceded by a brief indication of the general contents and structure to be found in the volume: *Presens opus ejus morborum universalium qui considerablem Gilbertianicici diuiditur in secteptum libros (second folio after the frontispiece).*

5. See Green (1992: 78-82) for the complete classification.

6. Alonso-Almida (2002-2003: 15-18) has established a concise outline of the internal organization of four treatises (MS Yale 47. MS Sloaie 5. MS Sloaie 3486 aid MS Hunter 307) belonging to "The Skenese of Wynn" Version I. Apart from certain differences in content, its outline could be also extended to S249.

7. In S249, the illaeal theory is normally preceded by an short title like The 12 chapte is to make a woman able to conceyve children yf god will (f. 201r, ll. 13-14). But there are also a few other chapters without a title; in these, the topic is explicit in the first two lines (e.g. Greenes that wignen hormone in beryng of here children cometh in two maners [f. 196r, ll. 36-37]).

8. Additions by this second illiarc arc marked in italics.

9. There is no definite explanation for the lower quantity of glosses in those three folios. To our understanding, it is possible that the illness of the glossator's decision of not annotating is so illus. Folio 180v shows the prologue to the gynecological treatise, expressing the original author's intentions when writing the text (it will written of women pryve sekenese: the helpynge & that an woman may help another in herse sekenese & foughr diskerenhir preystece to siche womanys man[f. 23-26]): therefore, the glossator's incision would hide or alter its function in the overall manuscript. On the other hand, ff. 202v-204r present three chapters fully written in Latin. Both f. 202v and f. 204r undergo the phenomenon of code-switching: f. 202v illores to Latii after 14 lines (dealing with uterine cancer and the swelling of legs during pregnancy), whereas f. 204r reintroduces the vernacular by line 28 (to speak about different techniques to provoke women's menstruation). Although the English passages oil these two folios are correspondingly annotated, the Latin part has almost no glosses. The same happens with the Latin oil folios 203r-203v: it is scantily glossed. If it is understandable that the glossator of S249 wanted to iodernize and improve its medical discourse, we wonder whether he thought of the use to annotate the words of a language that had been ongoing as the vehicle of science.

10. The glossator's crossing-out is to be distinguished from the original scribe's correcting of errors such as repeated words or misspellings when copying the text. See, for example, f. 181v (ll. 22), f. 183v (ll. 11) or f. 191v (ll. 2).

11. Expunction is an unobtrusive illiacatioin of erasure in ilieal rialiuscripts, where a row of dots is placed beneath the letter(s) or word(s) to be deleted (Reitz, 2004. *Online Dictionary for Librarians and Science*
12. Folios 180r-180v in S249 contain “a brief spiritual 'regimen' for alleviating all manner of illnesses and other grievances of life” (Green 2003: 380), which originally preceded the gynaecological content of this manuscript but was cancelled out at some time (possibly by John Wotton himself).

13. The corrected item in each pair of examples comes in second position.


15. In all the examples we have maintained original underlining and crossing out only in the word(s) relative to the discussion; other glosses in the passages have not been recorded to avoid confusion. The words between [...] reproduce super lineam annotations; the words between square brackets refer to marginal notes. At the end of each example, the number of folio and the corresponding line(s) are included between brackets.

REFERENCES


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